



{In Archive} Update: alleged septic system failure at Pineview Estates subdivision south of Gardnerville

Dave McNeil to: Eric Byous

12/16/2005 01:54 PM

Cc: Samuel Jackson, Tansey Smith, Tom Dunkelman

From: Dave McNeil <dmcneil@ndep.nv.gov>
To: Eric Byous/R9/USEPA/US@EPA,
Cc: Samuel Jackson <jacksons@ndep.nv.gov>, Tansey Smith <tsmith@ndep.nv.gov>, Tom Dunkelman <tdunkelm@ndep.nv.gov>

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Eric:
This is an update to my previous message.

During the lunch hour I received a phone message from the caller who had reported the alleged septic system effluent leak. He apologized for sending me on a wild goose chase as he had driven by the site today and observed that the effluent leak that he claims to have seen is now buried under the berm I saw yesterday. It separates the lower end of the disposal field from the catch basin. No doubt this person will continue to monitor the site and contact me if he observes any new sign of leakage. I will advise accordingly.

Dave

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Dave McNeil
> Sent: Friday, December 16, 2005 10:30 AM
> To: 'byous.eric@epamail.epa.gov'
> Cc: Samuel Jackson; Tansey Smith; Tom Dunkelman
> Subject: Pineview Estates subdivision south of Gardnerville, NV
>
> Mr. Byous:
> I was given your name by an associate in my office. I'm contacting you because I recently received a call from an individual that lives in close proximity to the referenced subdivision. He has alleged the existence of a very strong sewage odor and the existence of an effluent leak from the subdivision's disposal field into a storm water catch basin located just below, near the intersection of Hwy 395 and the subdivision entrance street. I visited the site yesterday for the purpose of inspecting for any off-site discharge of effluent to lands of the state (such as the Hwy 395 right-of-way). I was joined in my inspection by Mr. Briscoe Sanderson who identified himself as an EPA-certified Water Master. I clearly stated to Mr. Briscoe the limit to NDEP's interest and jurisdiction with respect to the received complaint.
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> Mr. Sanderson was very giving of his time and in

fact gave me a walking tour of the subdivision's new septic disposal system. I did not identify any surface discharge on the top surface of the field. However, the source of the alleged leakage claims that I missed it, claiming that the discharge is coming out of the end wall of the disposal field about 3' up the bank from the current catch basin water level, about mid way between the basin inlet pipe and the basin berm that parallels Hwy 395. I detected no sewage odor in the area but temperature at the time was in the high 20s or low 30s and there was a sheet of ice on top of the water in the catch basin.

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> As I could find no evidence of off-site discharge, there is no basis of continued interest in this matter by NDEP. The vast majority of complaints I investigate turn out to be unfounded and often lodged due to a grudge of some kind. Regardless, given EPA's jurisdiction with respect to this subdivision, NDEP believes it is appropriate that I bring this matter to your attention for follow up as you see necessary.

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